

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant acknowledges, with thanks, the office action dated February 26, 2008, and completion of the personal interview of April 15, 2008. The Examiner's observations and suggestions are much appreciated and summarized herein. Examiner's withdrawal of previous rejections made under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is noted with appreciation. Claims 1, 3-8, 10-15, 17-22, and 23-28 are currently pending.

Claims 1-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0030809 to Lozano et al. (*hereinafter*, "Lozano") in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,253,915 to Kemp et al. (*hereinafter*, "Kemp"). In view of the amendments and arguments set forth below, it is submitted that all pending claims are patentably distinct over the art of record.

The subject application teaches a system and method for a printer driver on a client machine to communicate with a network printer communicatively coupled to print server. A shared printer driver is loaded from an associated printer server to a client machine. A computer network is searched for at least one network accessible printer corresponding to the loaded printer driver, which network printer is accessible by the client machine via a data connection between the printer and an associated server and at least one network accessible printer is selected from such search. Identifier data associated with each selected network accessible printer is retrieved as well as a network address corresponding to the at least one selected network accessible printer. The network address corresponding identifier data, and a network path corresponding to the at least one selected network accessible printer is stored in an internal value table of the client machine. A port from the at least one selected network accessible printer is mapped to a port on a printer driver on the client machine in accordance with the value table, wherein the printer driver of the client machine is able to pass through an actual port associated therewith for bidirectional data communication with the at least one selected network accessible printer via the data connection.

Lozano is directed to plug-and-play print driver installation system which automatically installs drivers to replace missing, defective, inappropriate or older versions. The Examiner noted that Lozano is deficient in its teachings relative to mapping a port from at least one network

accessible printer to a port on a printer driver on the client machine. The Examiner addressed this deficiency by adding the teachings of Kemp. Kemp functions to allow for a data connection between a printer and a local machine. Once a port is mapped, a driver is then installed. Thus, Kemp requires a port to be set prior to installation, since driver installation is not possible beforehand. Conversely, the subject system functions to first download and install a driver. Once installed, the driver has sufficient capability to facilitate port discovery, and subsequent enablement, all via the installed driver. This would not be possible in the Kemp system, since by necessity a port must be identified beforehand. As noted in the subject specification, there are distinct advantages associated with ability for a driver to discover and enable port information directly from a device. This is particularly advantageous to allow for a driver to pull information from a printer to a workstation, since port information is obtained directly via the driver, and no problem relative to virtual port mapping or pseudo port mapping is presented.

In accordance with the forgoing, and further to the discussions during the Interview, amendment to each of independent claims 1, 8, 22 and 15 has been made to render them more clearly patentable over the art of record. More particularly, by virtue of this amendment, all claims include limitation wherein a print driver is obtained and loaded from a print server to a client machine. The installed driver then obtains printer information, and subsequently maps a port corresponding thereto. As noted above, such a port mapping, performed via an installed driver, is not only missing from the art of record but teaches away from such art.

In accordance with the afore-noted amendments and comments, it is submitted that all claims are patentably distinct over the art, and in condition for allowance thereof. An early allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

If there are any fees necessitated by the foregoing communication, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0902, referencing our Docket No. 66329/31252.

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Respectfully submitted,



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